

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2717  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001  
IMPORT OF SUGARCANE HARVESTING MACHINES  
MINATISEN

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have decided to import job killer `sugarcane harvesting machines` from Germany and Australia;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that several thousand agricultural workers earn their livelihood from sugarcane harvesting activity;
- (c) if so, the reasons which prompted the Government to take anti-labour decision; and
- (d) the alternate mechanism being developed for these agricultural workers and small scale industrialists?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

- (a): Import of other harvesting machines, including sugarcane harvesting machines, is classified under Exim code no.84335900. Import of this items is free for the past few years. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has proposed to import only one sugarcane harvester from abroad for use at the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal under National Agricultural Technology Project to evaluate and adopt its good features for development of a simple sugarcane harvester for Indian conditions to be used in future in the areas where the farmers are facing acute shortage of labour during harvesting of sugarcane.
- (b): Yes, Sir.
- (c): In view of reply to part (a) of the Question, the question does not arise.
- (d): Government is implementing various schemes to provide employment opportunities for the people in rural areas. The Government is aware of the challenges arising out of imports and has been trying to improve the competitiveness of the small scale industries in the country.